Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SP-02 USIA-06 AID-05 NSC-05
EPG-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 L-03
IGA-02 H-01 /074 W
----------128317 201858Z /41
R 201152Z JUL 77
FM AMCNSUL ALEXANDRIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0966
AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALEXANDRIA 0650

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRD, EG
SUBJECT: REPRESENTATIONS CONCERNING ANTI-BOYCOTT LEGISLATION

REF: ALEXANDRIA 0540

1. YESTERDAY, IN RESPONSE TO HIS REQUEST THAT HE BE PROVIDED WITH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE U.S. ANTI-BOYCOTT LEGISLATION AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE, DPO CALLED ON BRIGADIER AMIN ATTA AND DELIVERED TO HIM A COPY OF THE TEXT OF THE LEGISLATION AS WELL AS EXPLANATORY COMMERCE AMERICA ARTICLE. DPO EXPLAINED THAT POST STILL AWAITING DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES CALLED FOR IN THE LEGISLATION AND WOULD, IF POSSIBLE, BRIEF HIM ON THEM WHEN THEY WERE RECEIVED. BRIG. ATTA WAS VERY CORDIAL AND APPRECIATIVE OF CONGEN'S EFFORTS TO BRING HIM UP TO DATE ON LEGISLATION.

2. AFTER A FEW MINUTES OF SMALL TALK, AS DPO WAS ABOUT READY TO LEAVE, BRIG. ATTA ASKED WHAT HE THOUGHT OF THE FORD PROJECT. OFFICER TOLD HIM THAT FROM WHAT HE HAD SEEN OF THE DETAILS IT APPEARED TO BE A BENEFICIAL PROJECT FOR EGYPT, WOULD PROVIDE JOBS, INDUSTRIALIZATION, ETC. AND EVENTUALLY BADLY NEEDED FOREIGN EXCHANGE. ATTA THEN ASKED WHY THESE PEOPLE - FORD - CONFIDENTIAL

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WOULD NOT COME SEE HIM. DIDN'T THEY REALIZE THAT THEY WOULD - PROVIDING THEY INTENDED TO OPERATE THROUGHOUT THE MIDDLE EAST - EVENTUALLY HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE BOYCOTT OFFICE.

3. HE THEN BROADENED HIS QUESTION TO INCLUDE ALL BOYCOTTED FIRMS AND AGREED THAT HIS PHILOSOPHY WAS THAT THE ARABS - PARTICULARLY EGYPT - WOULD NOT REQUIRE THAT A COMPANY CUT ALL

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ITS TIES WITH ISRAEL. INSTEAD HE FELT THAT WHAT A COMPANY WAS DOING IN ISRAEL HAD TO BE BALANCED AGAINST WHAT THE POTENTIAL BENEFIT WOULD BE TO EGYPT. USING FORD AGAIN AS AN EXAMPLE HE SAID THAT IT APPEARED TO HIM THAT WHAT THE COMPANY WAS DOING IN ISRAEL WAS PROBABLY FAR LESS THAN THE BENEFITS THAT WOULD ACCRUE TO EGYPT IF FORD OPENED UP HERE. THEREFORE, HE WOULD LIKE TO TALK TO THE AND QUOTE PUT THEM ON THE RUNWAY UNQUOTE. HE MENTIONED BARCLAYS BANK AS AN EXAMPLE.

4. HE ADMITTED THAT HE ALONE COULD NOT GET A COMPANY OFF THE BOYCOTT NOR GUARANTEE THAT THEY WULD BE TAKEN OFF, BUT THE "BOYCOTT LAW" WAS SUFFICIENTLY FLEXIBLE AND THERE WERE ENOUGH PEOPLE THAT FELT AS HE DID THAT HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT HE COULD HELP THEM IF ONLY THEY WOULD ALLOW HIM.

5. DPO AT END OF CONVERSATION PROMISED ONLY TO PASS ON BRIG. ATTA'S VIEWS.
CHASE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW, BOYCOTTS, DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS, INVESTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ALEXAN00650
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770258-0242
Format: TEL
From: ALEXANDRIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770740/aaaabigz.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: 1a3b0467-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ALEXANDRIA 540
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1811718
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPRESENTATIONS CONCERNING ANTI-BOYCOTT LEGISLATION
TAGS: ETRD, EINV, EG, US, FORD, (ATTA, AMIN)
To: STATE CAIRO
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1a3b0467-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009